domestic supplies through imports wherever necessary, to check any abnormal rise in prices.

Apart from the measures on the Broad macro-economic front, specific measures have also been taken by Government in respect of particular essential commodities under pressure such as edible oils, pulses, tea, sugar and cement.

Corruption in railways

683. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints about large scale corruption particularly in the booking and parcel offices throughout the country;

(b) if so, whether Government have since contemplated any action on the complaints;

(c) whether the corruption in the railways have increased during the past six-seven months since the present Government took over;

(d) if so, the details of such action taken during the past six months; and

(e) further steps proposed to be taken to curb corruption in the railways?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI AJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Complaints of malpractices are indeed received from time to time, including those pertaining to booking and parcel offices. These are investigated and appropriate action (including prosecution and disciplinary proceedings) taken against those found guilty.

(c) to (e) Utmost importance is given to the eradication of mal-practices and corruption on the railways for which purpose vigilance activities have been intensified especially in the mass contact area (e.g. booking, reservation, parcels, goods and catering).

The vigilance activities include preventive steps such as information-gathering, simplification / modification of rules / procedures to reduce scope of corruption, surveillance, rotational transfers of officers and staff on sensitive posts, pre-mature retirement of those whose integrity is doubtful and frequent checks. Other steps taken are speedier disposal of disciplinary proceedings, imposition of deterrent punishments in proven cases and large-scale involvement of staff, supervisory officials and public in the fight against corruption. There has been no evidence of increase in the corruption during the past 6-7 months. On the contrary, with the steps taken, there is greater vigilance (anti-corruption) consciousness now, both amongst the railwaymen and the public.

आवश्यक वस्तुओं के थोक और खुदरा मूल्य

684. **डा० अबरार अहमद खान:** क्या खाद्य और नागरिक पूर्ति मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) नवम्बर 1989 में तथा 31 जुलाई, 1990 को आवश्यक वस्तुओं के थोक तथा खुदरा मूल्य क्या-क्या थे;

(ख) 31 जुलाई, 1990 को समाप्त हुये आठ माह में आवश्यक वस्तुओं के थोक मूल्य सूचकांक में नवम्बर, 1989 की तुलना में कितनी वृद्धि या कमी हुई और वृद्धि तथा कमी के क्या कारण हैं; और

(ग) क्या निकट भविष्य में मूल्य सूचकांक के गिरने की कोई संभावना है और यदि हां, तो कब तक तथा सरकार इस संबंध में क्या ठोस कदम उठा रही है?

खाद्य और नागरिक पूर्ति मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री राम पूजन पटेल): (क) 25 नवम्बर, 1989 और 1 अगस्त, 1990 को चुने हुए केन्द्रों पर चुनी हुई आवश्यक वस्तुओं के सप्ताह-अंत के थोक और खुदरा मूल्य दर्शाने वाला एक विवरण दिया गया है (**देखिए परिशिष्ट 155, अनुपत्र संख्या 25**)।

(ख) आर्थिक सलाहकार, उद्योग मंत्रालय द्वारा तैयार किया गया थोक मूल्य-सूचकांक 21.7.1990 को समाप्त हुए सप्ताह के लिए उपलब्ध है। 21.7.90 और 25.11.89 के बीच चुनी हुई आवश्यक वस्तुओं के थोक